

## CLAIMS

### What is claimed is:

1. A method implemented on a programmed computer system connected to a public access communications network where the method receives a plurality of lists of meta-data from a remote user's computer system connected to the same public access communications network where the said meta-data:
  - a. Contains rules for directing the method in how to use resources contained on other programmed computer systems connected to public access communications networks through the use of secure communications devices requiring a protected sequence of operations to be performed to allow access outside of the secure private communications network.
  - b. Contains rules for directing the method in how to use resources residing on other programmed computer systems connected to the same public access communications network.
  - c. Contains rules for directing the method in how to filter the results of operations performed at it's request by resources residing on other programmed computer systems connected to the same public access communications network.
  - d. Contains rules for directing the method in how to contact owners of resources and objects located at it's request by resources residing on other programmed computer systems connected to the same public access communications network.
  - e. Contains rules for directing the method in how to negotiate for the use or ownership of said resources and objects located at it's request by resources residing on other programmed computer systems connected to the same public access communications network.
2. A method implemented on a programmed computer system where the method is given a plurality of lists of meta-data by a user residing on the same computer system where the system is connected to a public access communications network where the said meta-data:
  - a. Contains rules for directing the method in how to use resources contained on other programmed computer systems connected to public access communications networks through the use of secure communications devices requiring a protected sequence of operations to be performed to allow access outside of the secure private communications network.

- b. Contains rules for directing the method in how to use resources residing on other programmed computer systems connected to the same public access communications network.
  - c. Contains rules for directing the method in how to filter the results of operations performed at it's request by resources residing on other programmed computer systems connected to the same public access communications network.
  - d. Contains rules for directing the method in how to contact owners of resources and objects located at it's request by resources residing on other programmed computer systems connected to the same public access communications network.
  - e. Contains rules for directing the method in how to negotiate for the use or ownership of said resources and objects located at it's request by resources residing on other programmed computer systems connected to the same public access communications network.
- 3. A method implemented on a programmed computer system where the method is given a plurality of lists of meta-data by a user residing on the same computer system where the system is connected to a secure private access communications network where the said meta-data:
  - a. Contains rules for directing the method in how to use resources contained on other programmed computer systems connected to public access communications networks through the use of secure communications devices requiring a protected sequence of operations to be performed to allow access outside of the secure private communications network.
  - b. Contains rules for directing the method in how to use resources contained on other programmed computer systems connected to public access communications networks through the use of secure communications devices requiring a protected sequence of operations to be performed to allow access outside of the secure private communications network.
  - c. Contains rules for directing the method in how to filter the results of operations performed at it's request by resources residing on other programmed computer systems connected to the same public access communications network.
  - d. Contains rules for directing the method in how to contact owners of resources and objects located at it's request by resources residing on other programmed computer systems connected to the same public access communications network.

- e. Contains rules for directing the method in how to negotiate for the use or ownership of said resources and objects located at it's request by resources residing on other programmed computer systems connected to the same public access communications network.
- 4. A method implemented and distributed across a plurality of programmed computer systems connected to a plurality of communications networks where the method receives a plurality of lists of meta-data from a user residing on a computer system connected to one of the plurality of communications networks where the said meta-data:
  - a. Contains rules for directing the method in how to use resources contained on other programmed computer systems connected to secure private communications networks through the use of secure communications devices requiring a protected sequence of operations to be performed to allow access outside of the secure private communications network.
  - b. Contains rules for directing the method in how to use resources residing on other programmed computer systems connected to the same public access communications network.
  - c. Contains rules for directing the method in how to filter the results of operations performed at it's request by resources residing on other programmed computer systems connected to the same public access communications network.
  - d. Contains rules for directing the method in how to contact owners of resources and objects located at it's request by resources residing on other programmed computer systems connected to the same public access communications network.
  - e. Contains rules for directing the method in how to negotiate for the use or ownership of said resources and objects located at it's request by resources residing on other programmed computer systems connected to the same public access communications network.

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#### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is a method for locating works such as music, graphic images, or text files contained on databases or residing as individual files on private or public networks. This invention will, once it locates an object conforming to the parameters specified by the user, initiate an automated dialog with the owner of the conforming object for the purpose of determining the intentions of the owner. This invention lends itself to searching for documents, images, sounds, or other resources that may already be owned by the user but not known to him or for documents, images, sounds, or other